(c) All the remaining villages are planned to provided with telecom facility progressively by August, 2003 subject to availability of resources.

Corporation in Indian Postal Service

†2999. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to corporatise the Indian Postal Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the outline for same is likely to be prepared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Non-availability of telephone facilities

3000. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and the North Eastern Region where telephone facilities are not available;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages in these States where telephone facilities were provided during the year 2001-02; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The number of villages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

covered with telephone facilities in the years 2001-2002 as well as the number of villages left without telephone facilities in the said States have been reported to be as under:

State	Number of villages left without telephone facilities	Villages covered with telephone facility in 2001-02
Uttar Pradesh	252	10,581
Orissa	6,675	10,392
Jharkhand	2,768	9,980
Uttaranchal	4,039	2,162
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	18,972	3,989
Rajasthan	16,696	73
North-Eastern Region	16,454	3,016

Some of the villages are reported to be in thick forests, naxellite infested, disputed, depopulated or affected by law and order problems or need satellite media. Private sector companies licensed for providing telephone service in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) and Rajasthan have not been able to fulfil their committed performance obligations. They have consistently being insisted upon to complete their unfulfilled performance obligations either on their own or by working out arrangements to utilize infrastructure of other service providers in their services area for this purpose.

Internet/E-mail/Computer facilities in rural and tribal areas

3001. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in the rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY